



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

**Committee Bill No. 169**

LCO No. 4339



Referred to Committee on CHILDREN

Introduced by:  
(KID)

**AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS FOR CHILDREN.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-206 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

3 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall require each pupil  
4 enrolled in the public schools to have health assessments pursuant to  
5 the provisions of this section. Such assessments shall be conducted by  
6 (1) a legally qualified practitioner of medicine, (2) an advanced practice  
7 registered nurse or registered nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378,  
8 (3) a physician assistant, licensed pursuant to chapter 370, (4) a school  
9 medical advisor, or (5) a legally qualified practitioner of medicine, an  
10 advanced practice registered nurse or a physician assistant stationed at  
11 any military base, to ascertain whether such pupil is suffering from  
12 any social, emotional, behavioral, mental or physical disability tending  
13 to prevent such pupil from receiving the full benefit of school work  
14 and to ascertain whether such school work should be modified in  
15 order to prevent injury to the pupil or to secure for the pupil a suitable  
16 program of education. No health assessment shall be made of any

17 child enrolled in the public schools unless such examination is made in  
18 the presence of the parent or guardian or in the presence of another  
19 school employee. The parent or guardian of such child shall receive  
20 prior written notice and shall have a reasonable opportunity to be  
21 present at such assessment or to provide for such assessment himself  
22 or herself. A local or regional board of education may deny continued  
23 attendance in public school to any child who fails to obtain the health  
24 assessments required under this section.

25 (b) Each local or regional board of education shall require each child  
26 to have a health assessment prior to public school enrollment. The  
27 assessment shall include: (1) A physical examination which shall  
28 include hematocrit or hemoglobin tests, height, weight, blood  
29 pressure, and, beginning with the 2003-2004 school year, a chronic  
30 disease assessment which shall include, but not be limited to, asthma  
31 as defined by the Commissioner of Public Health pursuant to  
32 subsection (c) of section 19a-62a. The assessment form shall include (A)  
33 a check box for the provider conducting the assessment, as provided in  
34 subsection (a) of this section, to indicate an asthma diagnosis, (B)  
35 screening questions relating to appropriate public health concerns to  
36 be answered by the parent or guardian, and (C) screening questions to  
37 be answered by such provider; (2) an updating of immunizations as  
38 required under section 10-204a, provided a registered nurse may only  
39 update said immunizations pursuant to a written order by a physician  
40 or physician assistant, licensed pursuant to chapter 370, or an  
41 advanced practice registered nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378;  
42 (3) vision, hearing, speech and gross dental screenings; (4) social,  
43 emotional, behavioral and mental health screenings; and ~~[(4)]~~ (5) such  
44 other information, including health and developmental history, as the  
45 physician feels is necessary and appropriate. The assessment shall also  
46 include tests for tuberculosis, sickle cell anemia or Cooley's anemia  
47 and tests for lead levels in the blood where the local or regional board  
48 of education determines after consultation with the school medical  
49 advisor and the local health department, or in the case of a regional  
50 board of education, each local health department, that such tests are

51 necessary, provided a registered nurse may only perform said tests  
52 pursuant to the written order of a physician or physician assistant,  
53 licensed pursuant to chapter 370, or an advanced practice registered  
54 nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378.

55 (c) Each local or regional board of education shall require each pupil  
56 enrolled in the public schools to have health assessments in either  
57 grade six or grade seven and in either grade nine or grade ten. The  
58 assessment shall include: (1) A physical examination which shall  
59 include hematocrit or hemoglobin tests, height, weight, blood  
60 pressure, and, beginning with the 2003-2004 school year, a chronic  
61 disease assessment which shall include, but not be limited to, asthma  
62 as defined by the Commissioner of Public Health pursuant to  
63 subsection (c) of section 19a-62a. The assessment form shall include (A)  
64 a check box for the provider conducting the assessment, as provided in  
65 subsection (a) of this section, to indicate an asthma diagnosis, (B)  
66 screening questions relating to appropriate public health concerns to  
67 be answered by the parent or guardian, and (C) screening questions to  
68 be answered by such provider; (2) an updating of immunizations as  
69 required under section 10-204a, provided a registered nurse may only  
70 update said immunizations pursuant to a written order of a physician  
71 or physician assistant, licensed pursuant to chapter 370, or an  
72 advanced practice registered nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378;  
73 (3) vision, hearing, postural and gross dental screenings; (4) social,  
74 emotional, behavioral and mental health screenings; and ~~[(4)]~~ (5) such  
75 other information including a health history as the physician feels is  
76 necessary and appropriate. The assessment shall also include tests for  
77 tuberculosis and sickle cell anemia or Cooley's anemia where the local  
78 or regional board of education, in consultation with the school medical  
79 advisor and the local health department, or in the case of a regional  
80 board of education, each local health department, determines that said  
81 screening or test is necessary, provided a registered nurse may only  
82 perform said tests pursuant to the written order of a physician or  
83 physician assistant, licensed pursuant to chapter 370, or an advanced  
84 practice registered nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378.

85 (d) The results of each assessment done pursuant to this section and  
86 the results of screenings done pursuant to section 10-214 shall be  
87 recorded on forms supplied by the State Board of Education. Such  
88 information shall be included in the cumulative health record of each  
89 pupil and shall be kept on file in the school such pupil attends. If a  
90 pupil permanently leaves the jurisdiction of the board of education, the  
91 pupil's original cumulative health record shall be sent to the chief  
92 administrative officer of the school district to which such student  
93 moves. The board of education transmitting such health record shall  
94 retain a true copy. Each physician, advanced practice registered nurse,  
95 registered nurse, or physician assistant performing health assessments  
96 and screenings pursuant to this section and section 10-214 shall  
97 completely fill out and sign each form and any recommendations  
98 concerning the pupil shall be in writing.

99 (e) Appropriate school health personnel shall review the results of  
100 each assessment and screening as recorded pursuant to subsection (d)  
101 of this section. When, in the judgment of such health personnel, a  
102 pupil, as defined in section 10-206a, is in need of further testing or  
103 treatment, the superintendent of schools shall give written notice to the  
104 parent or guardian of such pupil and shall make reasonable efforts to  
105 assure that such further testing or treatment is provided. Such  
106 reasonable efforts shall include a determination of whether or not the  
107 parent or guardian has obtained the necessary testing or treatment for  
108 the pupil, and, if not, advising the parent or guardian on how such  
109 testing or treatment may be obtained. The results of such further  
110 testing or treatment shall be recorded pursuant to subsection (d) of this  
111 section, and shall be reviewed by school health personnel pursuant to  
112 this subsection.

113 (f) On and after February 1, 2004, each local or regional board of  
114 education shall report to the local health department and the  
115 Department of Public Health, on an annual basis, the total number of  
116 pupils per school and per school district having a diagnosis of asthma  
117 (1) at the time of public school enrollment, (2) in grade six or seven,

118 and (3) in grade ten or eleven. The report shall contain the asthma  
 119 information collected as required under subsections (b) and (c) of this  
 120 section and shall include pupil age, gender, race, ethnicity and school.  
 121 Beginning on October 1, 2004, and every three years thereafter, the  
 122 Department of Public Health shall review the asthma screening  
 123 information reported pursuant to this section and shall submit a report  
 124 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
 125 cognizance of matters relating to public health and education  
 126 concerning asthma trends and distributions among pupils enrolled in  
 127 the public schools. The report shall be submitted in accordance with  
 128 the provisions of section 11-4a and shall include, but not be limited to,  
 129 trends and findings based on pupil age, gender, race, ethnicity, school  
 130 and the education reference group, as determined by the Department  
 131 of Education for the town or regional school district in which such  
 132 school is located.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

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| Section 1 | October 1, 2013 | 10-206 |
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**Statement of Purpose:**

To enhance the provision of social, emotional, behavioral and mental health services.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: SEN. HARP, 10th Dist.; SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.  
 REP. DILLON, 92nd Dist.; REP. WALKER, 93rd Dist.  
 REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD, 94th Dist.; REP. CANDELARIA,  
 95th Dist.  
 REP. LEMAR, 96th Dist.; REP. MEGNA, 97th Dist.  
 SEN. STILLMAN, 20th Dist.; REP. ALBIS, 99th Dist.

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